IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the pending claims:

1 -36. (cancelled).

37 . (previously presented) An access method, comprising:

receiving at a storage engine a certificate from the host device, the certificate

containing a digital signature;

authenticating the digital signature;

receiving at the storage engine a file request from the authenticated host device,

the file request being directed to a file stored on a storage medium accessible to the

storage engine;

within the storage engine, reading security metadata associated with the file from

the storage medium, the security metadata containing at least one rule governing access

to the file;

within the storage engine, applying the at least one rule to the file request from the

host device; and

if the application of the at least one rule provides a failing result, denying the file

request.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one rule

comprises a plurality of rules.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the storage medium is an

optical disk.

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40. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the application of the at least one rule act comprises checking play privileges for the host device.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising: if the application of the at least one rule provides a successful result, granting the file request.

42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

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